

XV century

Death, fire, flights, facts about the Content lawsuit of 1486

The files of Montaut contain a copy, according to an original in parchment, reporting the events which will follow¹.

Seizures of cattle on the Content (part of the wood of Mourle located at the disputed limits of the communities of Montaut and Saint Pée) with the damage to Montaut brought a lawsuit in 1486, following, a sentence which was challenged by the inhabitants of Saint Pée, considering that it had not been given in the legal forms.

They invaded Montaut with armed hand, burned houses, gave blows on the people and seized cattle...

Ramon de Corthie, bayle of Pau put Montaut in possession of the Content under the terms of the sentence; and went to the ground with the witnesses.

The population was joined together with its horn with Saint Pée where it went.

There it found Ramonet de Claverie and Berdot de Gayrousse rather badly hurt; Berdot is brought dying to the square of the village. The inhabitants claim 1000 ecus for experts.

Johan de Sauqué was taken on the way to Pontacq, led to Saint Pée and held 22 months a captive.

Thereafter, those of Saint Pée arrived with about 300 or 400 to set fire to the village of Montaut. When they resisted: 20 were wounded; the saint péens spread themselves through the village to plunder

In spite of the multiple interventions of the queen of Navarre, the compromises found were violated at once.

In Artigues, the millet fields were devastated and Montaut required justice of the arbitrators of the sentence of 1491.

Counterparts of Saint Pée :

- *Pée Saint claimed that the livre terrier of Bigorre allotted the Content to them; the livre having been paid by count Jean, original sovereign of Béarn, and the count of Bigorre, and that he was not to diminish his state of birth to favor one over the other;*
- *The Mouscle, both in summer and winter was supposed be the limit between Béarn and Bigorre;*
- *Descending from the cross of Miquelle to the water of Mouscle, between the wood of Lourdes and the Content, there was only the way between them: however, it was forever a question of seizure of cattle between Lourdes and Montaut on this ground; but it took place between Saint Pée and Lourdes*
- *Montaut had forever shown the title, but always advanced the constraints. It was introduced as follows: the persons of Saint Pée entrusted to*

gazaille with the people of Montaut, much of cattle, the majority of Saint Pée making the combs did not have any interest. They needed wood, limes, coal: those of Saint Pée tolerated and they had constraint.

- they (the saint péens) challenged the judgement of 1486 because there were three inhabitants of Béarn out of the four judges; the sentence was precipitated one month, without leaving Saint Pée any time to defend itself.

- Saint Pée appealed; In spite of that, Ramonet de Corthie (of Montaut) posed the terms. Saint Pée defended itself with armed hand; there was a fight, death and casualties. Saint Pée asks for 10.000 ecus. They called upon the King and his Court who gave the order to suspend the application of the sentence.

- Saint Pée intervened with armed hand to only defend itself against the armed hand of Montaut.

- Montaut was also guilty of attacks on people of Saint Pée going to Nay, Lestelle... to such a degree that the merchants of Saint Pée did not dare more to pass in Béarn

- The greatest scandal was the test of rising of Bèarn by Montaut coming to Saint Pée, to seize, kill the men... a young woman... girls... and to burn it. The large rain of the previous night prevented it from carrying out this program; however there was fear, wounds... demolished mills etc... Saint Pée asks 50.000 ecus.

- Montaut killed two people of Saint Pée; one when Ramond of Courthie came to the palombières, in the disputed place, other Guelhem deu Forts, killed in front of his property, which Saint Pée maintained, for the family ; they claimed 10.000 ecus.

An investigation was ordered in Pontacq, continued in Lestelle on March 10, 1486, because there was a contagious disease in Pontacq

After this confession, the syndics of Montaut and Saint Pée joined together with Lestelle at Sobirou, decided to accept the sentence, without another judicial inquiry, nor examination of witnesses to finish it and go quickly.

A syndicat of Montaut and Saint Pée gave them the authorization to treat. Here clauses:

In continuation of the murders, the charges remain with the communes for their victims, in the same way for the damage

Solomon would not have done better...

February 4, 1491 solemn Oath

The affair did not rest there. To consolidate the sentence of 1486, it was decided that at the time of a meeting on the plain of Montaut, an oath would be made to the Holy Host.

Monks and priest of Saint Pée in dress of chorus brought the Holy Host. A general assembly of Montaut had designated the four arbitrators; the meeting was done *“with davant glise and cappere and of*

moss. Sanct Anthony in lo plassar deud.loc and loc acostumat of amassar^{1b}

A similar assembly was made in Saint Pée. ; they had asked the oath of those of Montaut. They accepted: 10 men were designated to this end by those of Saint Pée.

“The holy host sacrament was on a covered table of a tablecloth and the custode placed above: Bertranet du Clos, Arnaud Derm dit Malescrabes, Guillaume de Capperia, Bertrand de Colhefort, Bertrand de Poey, Arnauton de Lacaze, Jeannet de Trey, Jean de Turoo-Bielh, Joanolo de Camy, Joannet d' Ossan, are reflected on knees in front of the Holy Host. Those of Saint Pée declared that if these ten inhabitants of Montaut swear and say the allegations presented to them, were false, they would believe them. If they say true, those of Saint Pée (10 men chosen by Montaut) promised to also swear their own allegations likewise. But Montaut the known as false ones and swore the true opposite” on the precious body of God who was contained in small glass in the shape of mirror with a small cloth over and posed on the corporaux saints ” Then they went to the disputed place where the reading of the sentence took place.

This one was pronounced by the seneshals of Béarn and Bigorre, in front of the syndicate or general assemblies behaviours by Saint Pée and Montaut who recognized the arbitrators: Joan de Meritenh, seneshal of Béarn and Pierre Arnaud de Castelbajac, seneshal of Bigorre.

A few days later, on December 5, 1486, the award appeared by which they declared that the “ palombières ” (bird hunting blinds) on the litigious ground, will continue to be held by the inhabitants of Saint Pée and fix the user rights of each community which could be called into question in the future.

1 The Family d'Abadie

In 1493, on June 6, Bertrand d' Abadie, from a noble family originating in Igon, writes his will in Montaut, in favour of the Brotherhood of Notre Dame of Gattaram. (which will become, thereafter, Notre Dame de Bétharram). He constructed the small Renaissance manor house located in the middle of our village.

At the end of the XIV century, several authors state the existence of a viscontal road made for the pilgrims of Compostelle. Indeed, a road coming from Béziers and passing broad of Toulouse connected several sanctuaries of which were Saint Pée, Saint Hilaire de Lassun, Nay, Asson, etc... the first passages of pilgrims would date back to 1390.

In 1517 the Brotherhood of Saint Catherine at the request of the priest and Jurats is founded: Jean Laguerre and Doat d' Abadie.s

In 1536, Jean d' Abadie, son of Bertrand obtains from the king, the authorization to build the mill of Couteillon⁴. He marries Lucie de Vianne.

This marriage bore a son, Francois, who fought with the Protestant troops of Navarrenx, under the orders of the baron d' Arros. This engagement, tells us Leonce Peyrègne, was worth the plundering of his house of Montaut. Nevertheless, he could safeguard the church from the fury of the iconoclasts.⁵

In 1582 he would have a disagreement with the community of Montaut which disputed his nobility⁶ (this allowed him indeed, to escape

the imposition) saying that his family had always paid taille and feifs. However in a document of the archives one finds affièvement of the mill and contiguous grounds made by Bertrand d' Abadie, to reforming commissaire Menaud de Maucor, secretary.?

He answered by quoting the goods of his family which were noble, originally, he said, of an old abbey layman of Montaut (of which we did not find a trace)^{7b}: Segallas, Barrères d' Abadie, Place of Abadie, Artigue d' Abadie etc..., ('ensembles of these lands and waters not having ever been surveyed and not appearing in the census of the community.

In addition it confirmed, which the community denied, that the nobles could be jurats and seigneureries of the King, that in what related to him he was held with the maintenance of the principal street of the bastide, which cost him the wages of two men.

In short, in order to leave this dispute, he offered the following transaction: he would give up the expensive charges of the maintenance of the principal street and would pay the taille for his house and his patches of land.

His daughter Jeanne, converted to Catholicism in 1616 as specified by H.Lassallesléonard *de Trappes, at the time of his arrival at Bétharram in July 1616, made preachings which brought, among other things, the conversion of the lady of Abadie, lady of the manor of Montaut.*

~ This conversion led her to build a chapel with her name in the church of the village in order to there be buried, which we found the chapel, on several occasions, mentioned.

She had married, it seems, Jacob of Arricau. They sold both to Hubert Charpentier their goods of Montaut in 1634 for 7500 livres.⁹

Another member of the family, fore-mentioned Jacques, known as "deu Clos" would have been ennobled by the abbot of Saint Pée in 1535, for services rendered in various lawsuits, this ennoblement having been confirmed to his son Jean.

However this title would have disappeared during the wars of religion; only its transcription in a register of notary would have remained; insufficient proof nevertheless since the prosecutor general of the States ordered that the house and ground of Jean d' Abadie deu Clos be imposed on the taille.

Constructor of a mill on the Mouscle and proprietor of the gentilhommière (small manor house) which bore his name, he was the origin of a brilliant family of lawyers which gave a Prosecutor to the Parliament in the XVIII century and several lawyers.

NOTES

1 ADPA Montaut FF1. One will find in appendix the chronological course of the events, the implied characters and the award.

1b Can one at that time regard this phase as a proof of the construction of the church Saint Antoine of our village?

2 *Directory of Saint Pée* 1883 page 447 and ADPA E 300

3 ADPA E 1721 f°410

4 ADPA B 806 f° 104 à 106

- 5 Leonce Peyregne the bastide of Montaut and its Gothic church Saint Hilaire Pau 1977
- 6 ADPA E 360. Affièvement of the mill and the grounds which it had in Montaut.
- 7 ADPAD806f°102sq.
- 7b Abbey of which we did not find trace nowhere.
- 8 H.Lassalle *a sanctuary inhabitant of Béarn Notre Dame de Bétharram* Pau 1941 p. 54
- 9 H.Lassalle op.c/f page 206. It was the beginning of the important land inheritance had by the chaplains of Bétharram on the territory of Montaut.
- 10 We did not find, to date, the proof of this ennoblement.

